



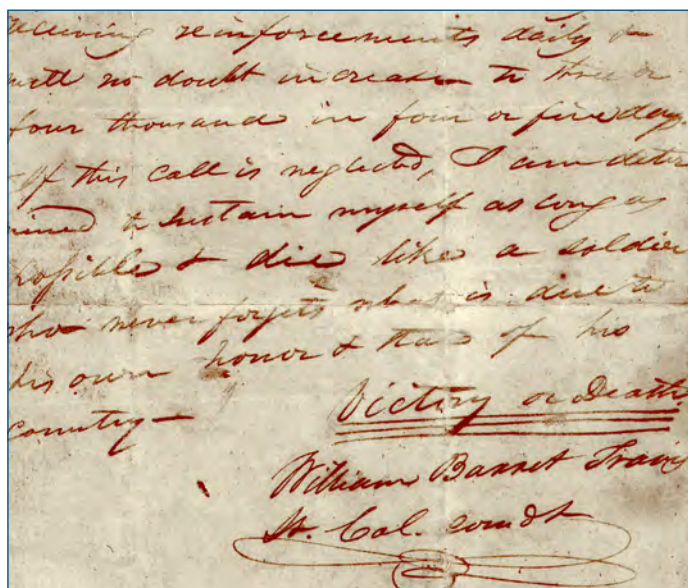
# *Saving* TEXAS HISTORY

The Texas General Land Office  
Archives and Records Newsletter

*Jerry Patterson, Commissioner*

*Vol. 10 Number 1 \* Spring 2013*

## Travis “Victory or Death” Letter to Return to the Alamo for First Time



*William Barret Travis' legendary "Victory or Death" letter will be returning to the Alamo for the first time since he wrote it, 177 years ago.*

**T**his February and March, Col. William Barret Travis' "Victory or Death" letter will return to the Alamo for the first time in 177 years. For two weeks, visitors can view the letter where it was penned, thanks to the joint efforts of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), the Texas General Land Office and the Alamo. The Travis letter is considered the most important piece of Texana in the TSLAC collections, and probably the entire state. In charge of the Alamo since September 2011, the Land Office has received permission to exhibit the letter and is raising \$100,000 in private donations to pay for its transportation and security, as well as outreach expenses.

*Continued inside ...*

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**WILLIAM BARRET TRAVIS  
DOCUMENTS IN THE  
SPANISH COLLECTION  
OF THE TEXAS GENERAL  
LAND OFFICE**

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**MAP SPOTLIGHT: MAP  
OF BEXAR [COUNTY]—  
UNDATED**

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**WILLIAM BARRET TRAVIS  
DOCUMENTS IN THE  
TEXAS GENERAL LAND  
OFFICE ARCHIVES**

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Saving Texas History is a publication of the Archives and Records Program of the Texas General Land Office. It is published quarterly and is available by request or online at [savetexashistory.org](http://savetexashistory.org).

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*Continued from page 1*



*Alamo Rangers help transport the crated exhibit case through the iconic doors of the Alamo.*

Since February 24, 1836, when it was written at the Alamo to warn of Santa Anna's arrival, Travis' letter has rarely been displayed outside of Austin. The letter is available for viewing from February 23 to March 7, 2013, during which 10,000-15,000 history buffs are expected daily, or about 200,000 total for the duration of the exhibit.

Because Travis' letter is arguably the most significant document in Texas history, numerous precautions are being taken to ensure its safety while en route to-and-from the Alamo and while on display, including a security escort, special barriers, a detailed traffic flow plan, armed guards, bag checks, security wandering of visitors, video surveillance and a detailed disaster response plan. The exact details of the letter's trips between Austin and San Antonio, as well as security precautions during the exhibit, will not be made available to the public.

The letter will be housed in a state-of-the-art, custom-built exhibit case constructed by world-renowned case manufacturer Glasbau REIER of Lautau, Germany. In order to keep the fragile document safe, the case is equipped with shatterproof glass, a desiccant chamber, dimmable fiber-optic lighting and a weighted, steel-reinforced base to prevent toppling. Before the exhibit opens, the Alamo's environmental conditions will have been monitored for six months and alterations made to minimize harmful UV rays and extremes of temperature and humidity.

"There's a balance between preservation and public access," Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said. "In every Texan's lifetime there should be one opportunity to see this letter in person. The Land Office, TSLAC and Alamo staffs are hard at work on this unique and memorable event."

The free exhibit will include significant William Barret Travis documents from the Land Office and Alamo collections. For more information on the Travis Letter project, please visit [www.travis-letter.com](http://www.travis-letter.com), or find it on Twitter @TravisLetter, and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TravisLetter>. To learn more about the Travis Letter, please visit the Texas State Library and Archives website at <https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/travis-letter.html>. ✨



*The custom-built exhibit case shortly after being uncrated. It was built in Germany and transported to San Antonio using private donations.*

*page 2*



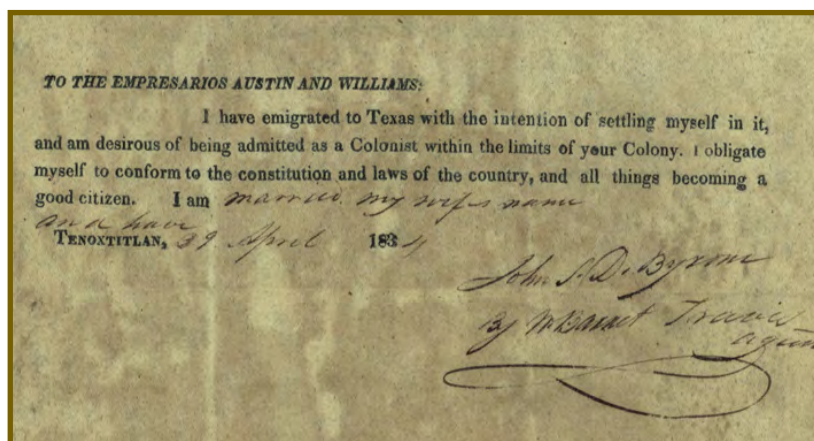
# William Barret Travis Documents in the Spanish Collection of the Texas General Land Office

by Mark Lambert, Deputy Commissioner of Archives and Records

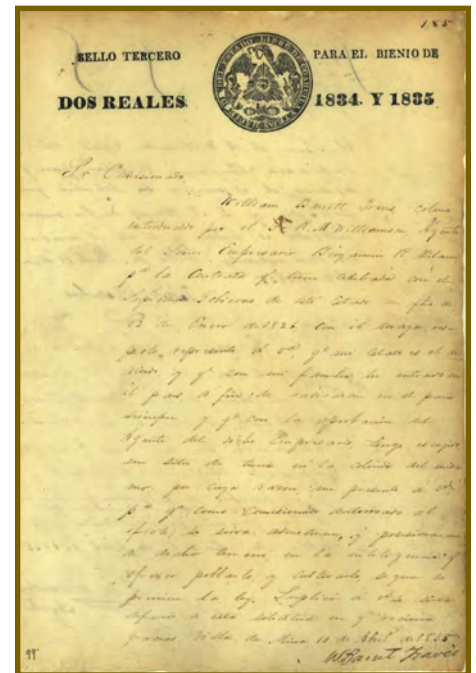
Among the 35.5 million documents and maps housed at the Texas General Land Office are several items that touch upon the work of William Barret Travis when he was new to Texas, and prior to his taking command of the Alamo in the spring of 1836. Travis was also an influential political leader in San Felipe de Austin, which is illustrated in several of the documents housed at the Land Office. His papers shed light on some of his personal dealings for land, and some of his political and professional dealings in pre-revolutionary Texas.

William B. Travis arrived in Texas from Alabama in May 1831 at the age of 22.<sup>1</sup> Travis first traveled to San Felipe, the capital of Austin's Colony, and then to Anahuac, an area with few attorneys where he could build his law practice while he learned Spanish, the official language in Mexican Texas. Travis later moved his legal practice to the more populous San Felipe. In 1834 he was elected Secretary to the San Felipe Ayuntamiento (town council), where he was accepted into the leadership of the local government and grew increasingly involved in local politics.<sup>2</sup> Travis' good friend, Robert M. Williamson, an attorney in San Felipe, was alcalde (mayor/judge) of San Felipe, and probably was influential in getting Travis elected Secretary. Williamson was also an agent for empresario Ben Milam, and was probably influential in getting Travis to locate his land grant in Milam's Colony.<sup>3</sup>

By 1831, Travis entered Austin's Colony. The 1825 Colonization Law of the state of Coahuila and Texas required foreigners wishing to settle in its territory to become residents. Settlers were free to select land from the public domain only after they had met this requirement. Article 3 of the Colonization Law of 1825 set out the process and steps to be used for establishing residence. These steps included a statement to the local ayuntamiento of the intent to settle and the administration of an oath to obey the state and federal constitutions. This law also provided for the recording of the oath and the names of the settler and the settler's family, if any, in a register of foreigners, along with a statement of the settler's origin, age, occupation and marital status.



*John S. D. Byrom Requests Admission in Austin's Colony, William B. Travis as agent.*



*William B. Travis obtained this title to one sitio or league of land. The land covered by the title is located in present-day Hays County.*

Travis is listed on line 578 of Austin's Register as being 22 years of age, single, and a lawyer from Alabama when he entered Austin's Colony in May 1831. At that time, Travis actually had a wife and two children in Alabama.<sup>4</sup>

In 1835, Travis made application to receive a land grant in Milam's Colony north of San Antonio in present-day Hays County. In his entry in Milam's Register, Travis stated he was 26 years of age, a lawyer and a widower. This is in contrast to his earlier oath in Austin's Colony,

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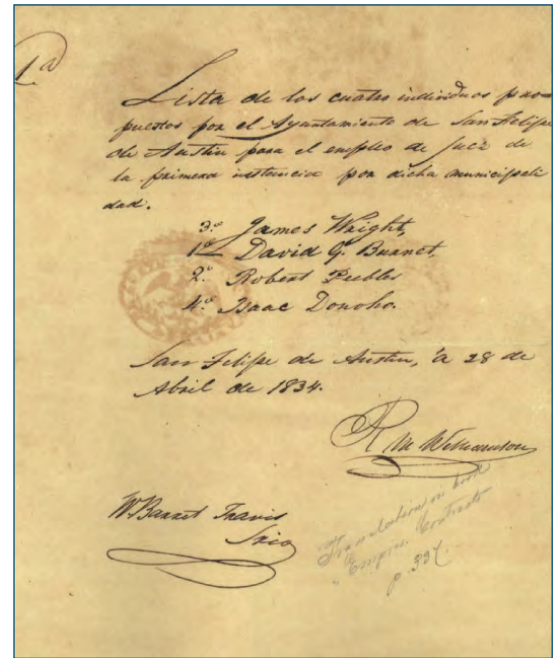
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where he stated he was single.

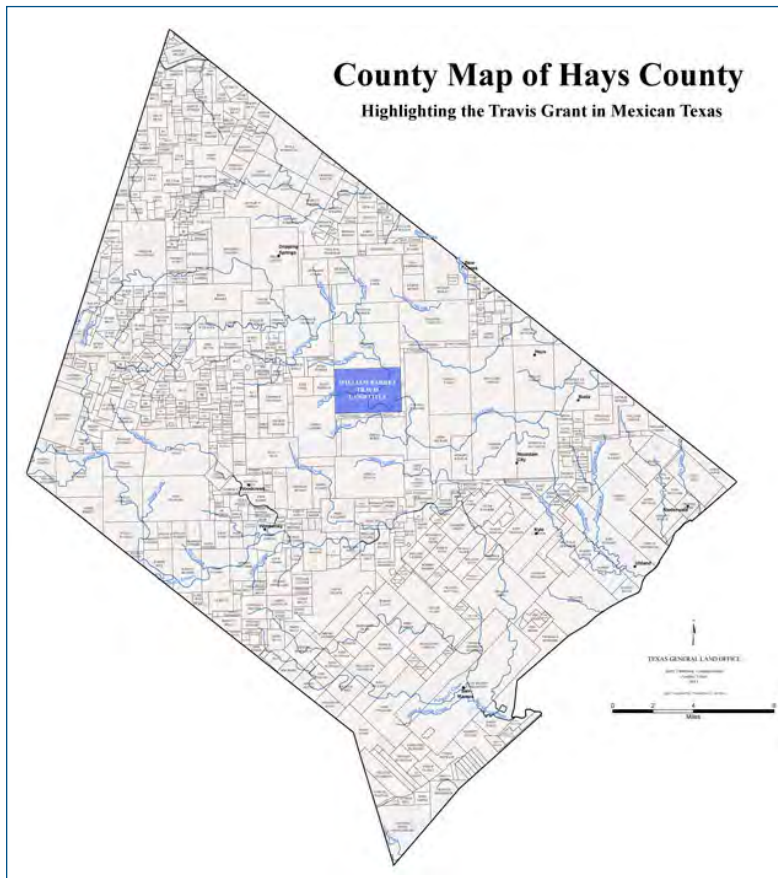
The entry is dated April 10, 1835, at Mina (present-day Bastrop), and bears what is purported to be Travis' signature. However, it's believed this is actually the signature of Robert M. Williamson, his good friend and attorney, who recruited colonists for Milam's Colony. This theory is supported by the fact that at the time of the oath, Travis would have been 25 years old, not 26, a mistake more likely to be made by a friend than the actual applicant. Additionally, two different spellings of "Barret" occur in the document.<sup>5</sup>

In 1835, Travis had officially become the head of a household when his son, Charles Edward Travis, was brought to Texas to live and his wife and daughter returned to Alabama, which entitled to a full league of land.

Why Travis chose to declare himself a widower at the time is unknown, but it could have been his friend Williamson's attempt to protect reputations. By 1835, Travis was known to have been dating a woman in Texas named Rebecca Cummings. That same year, he agreed to give his wife Rosanna a divorce, which was subsequently granted by the Alabama Legislature on January 9, 1836.<sup>6</sup>



*William B. Travis was elected Secretary of the Ayuntamiento for San Felipe de Austin in 1834. David G. Burnet was appointed the first judge of the Austin district.*



*This map of Hays County highlights Travis' league of land.*

By April 10, 1835,<sup>7</sup> William B. Travis obtained title to one sitio or league of land (4,428.4 acres) through Benjamin R. Milam's empresario contract with the Mexican State of Coahuila y Texas.<sup>8</sup> A sitio of land was the amount generally allocated to heads of households who agreed to raise cattle under the provisions of the 1825 Colonization Law of the state of Coahuila y Texas.

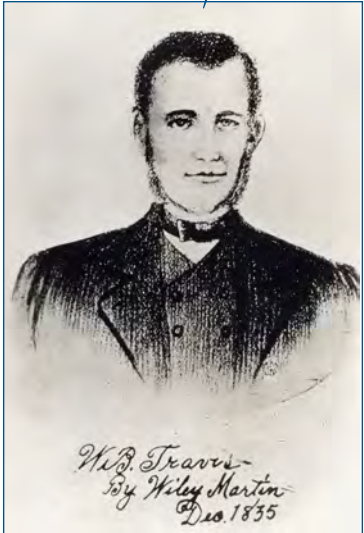
In addition to land documents for Travis, there are many documents within the Spanish Collection that may be of interest to Travis biographers, as he was active in local politics and within his own legal practice.

In April 1834, Travis was elected as Secretary of the Ayuntamiento for San Felipe de Austin. In one document, Travis, as Secretary, notes the results of a recent meeting during which the Ayuntamiento nominated four individuals for two local judgeships. The four individuals nominated were James Wright, David G. Burnet, Robert Peebles and Isaac Donoho.

*Continued on Page 5*

*page 4*





*A sketch of William Barret Travis by Wiley Martin in December 1835. Courtesy of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin.*

David G. Burnet, the future interim President of the Republic of Texas, was appointed the first judge of the Austin district and organized a court at San Felipe. The entire document was written in Travis' hand.<sup>9</sup>

In addition to Travis' political work, the GLO Spanish Collection also features documents relating to his business ventures, including a request for admission into Austin's Colony for John S.D. Byrom,<sup>10</sup> whom Travis served as an agent. To satisfy part of the requirements for admission to Austin's Colony, Travis, acting as agent on behalf of Byrom, submitted the request for his admission as a colonist in order to receive a land grant under Stephen F. Austin's fifth colonization contract, which he obtained in partnership with Samuel M. Williams. This printed certificate was completed in Travis' hand.<sup>11</sup>

Byrom did not receive a Mexican land grant because the paperwork was never completed, due to the disorder of the Texas Revolution at first and later to his death on July 10, 1837.

Travis is remembered in several primary source documents housed in the Spanish Collection of the Archives of the General Land Office. For more information about William Barret Travis, please contact [archives@glo.texas.gov](mailto:archives@glo.texas.gov), or visit [glo.texas.gov](http://glo.texas.gov). ✨

## Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Austin's Register of Families, vol. 1, p. 97, Spanish Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>2</sup> Williamson, Robert M., Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin, to Ramon Musquiz, Political Chief of Department of Bexar, April 28, 1834, Correspondence (4/28/1834-4/24/1835) Box 123, Folder 14 (SC 123:14), Spanish Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>3</sup> William Barret Travis Mexican Land Title, dated April 10, 1835, in Milam's Colony, Box 39, Folder 24 (SC 39:24), Spanish Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>4</sup> Austin's Register of Families, vol. 1, p. 97, Spanish Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>5</sup> William Barret Travis Mexican Land Title, April 10, 1835, in Milam's Colony, Box 39, Folder 24 (SC 39:24), Spanish Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>6</sup> Milam's Register of Families, April 10, 1835, p. 23, Spanish Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>7</sup> On March 22, 1835, Travis had his league of land (4,428.4 acres) surveyed in present-day Hays County on the horseshoe bend of Onion Creek. This tract, within Milam's Colony, was surveyed by Samuel Shackelford, District Surveyor. William B. Travis might have chosen to locate his land grant in Milam's Colony because it still allowed for locating grants along major waterways, something probably not possible by that time in Austin's Colony, and an extremely important factor at the time in cattle ranching, farming and commerce.
- <sup>8</sup> English Field Notes for League No. 15 for William Barrett Travis, March 22, 1835, English Field Notes Book S, Spanish Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>9</sup> Williamson, Robert M., Ayuntamiento of San Felipe de Austin, to Ramon Musquiz, Political Chief of Department of Bexar, April 28, 1834, Correspondence (4/28/1834-4/24/1835) Box 123, Folder 14 (SC 123:14), Spanish Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>10</sup> John S. D. Byrom was born in Georgia in 1798 and came to Texas in 1830, settling in Brazoria. He participated in the Battle of Velasco in 1832, was a delegate to the Consultation of 1835, and attended the Convention of 1836 as a representative of the Municipality of Brazoria, and was a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.
- <sup>11</sup> John S. D. Byrom's Request for Admission into Austin's Colony, dated April 29, 1834, Tenoxtitlan, Spanish Collection, Box 25, Folder 37 (SC 25:37), Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.

# MAP SPOTLIGHT

## Map of Bexar [County]—Undated

Map #3302

by Alex Chiba

This undated map of Bexar County holds the unique distinction of being the only county survey map in the General Land Office map archive that identifies the location of the Alamo and other missions in Bexar County. The primary purpose of the map was to track original surveys within Bexar County, and to identify what land was available to settlers as vacant public domain. The map bears no date, but is believed to predate the 1839 map of Bexar County (GLO Map # 1947), making it the earliest Bexar County map at the General Land Office.

The most obvious clue to the map's date is the fact that it was drawn and maintained by the Bexar County Surveyor. This is evident because all of the surveys that appear on the map show only the name of the original grantee and not the patent status or GLO File Number, which can be found on Land Office-created county maps. This dates the map prior to 1846 because it was not until that year that a permanent drafting department was established at the Land Office through the efforts of William "Peg Leg" Ward, the Land Office's second Commissioner. It was the establishment of this drafting department that greatly standardized the quality and information reflected on county land grant maps. Before its existence, creation and maintenance of these maps fell to the County or District Surveyor.<sup>1</sup>

We can also look at the distribution of the surveys within the county and notice there are large amounts of vacant public domain shown within Bexar County. The larger grants, which often came earlier, are heavily concentrated along the major water sources with large swaths of vacant land visible. This too suggests a relatively early county map. Additionally, there are very few, if any, third-class headright grants shown on the map which strongly suggests it dates before 1840 (the cut-off date to receive a third-class headright was January 1, 1840).

Finally, the Alamo is spotted on the map which suggests its siege and fall were still fresh on the minds of Texans when the map was made. Certainly by 1839, only three years after independence, the Alamo would be something most locals, like the Bexar County surveyor, would have seen fit to include on a map of Bexar County.

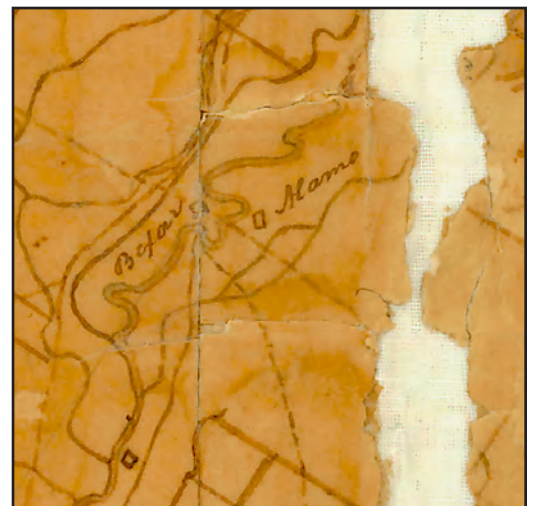
While we may never uncover more primary source material that sheds light on the specific age of this Map of Bexar County, we must rely on these clues and institutional knowledge to date its creation. This map, like many others, is a reminder that even maps in less than perfect condition can be unique and historically significant.

Map #3302 - Map of Bexar [County] is part of the permanent archival collection at the General Land Office. Color, full-size copies of this map can be purchased for only \$20 online at [glo.texas.gov](http://glo.texas.gov). ✨

<sup>1</sup> Early land commissioners had a difficult time with the work produced by County and District Surveyors at this time, which is evident in many of the early Commissioner Reports to the Texas Congress. Problems ranged from a lack of consistency, to a simple lack of understanding of what was required by the Land Office.



*This is believed to be the oldest map of Bexar County at the General Land Office. It is believed to have been made between 1837-1838.*



*Details of this Bexar County map show the missions in the San Antonio area, including the Alamo.*

# William Barret Travis Documents in the Texas General Land Office Archives

by Mark Lambert, Deputy Commissioner of Archives and Records

In addition to several documents concerning William Barret Travis in the Spanish Collection of the General Land Office Archives and Records, there are several documents that resulted from his service to the Revolutionary Army of Texas. Many of these documents, which were created posthumously, were handled by his heirs, who claimed their father's bounty some 15 years after his death. Featured here are documents from the Republic and State era at the Land Office that feature William Barret Travis.



An image of Travis fighting at the Alamo. "Death of Col. William B. Travis" by Ruth Conerly (Alamo Collection).

One of the ways the Texas Revolutionary Government attempted to recruit volunteers into the army was the promise of land for military service. This promise was known as a Bounty. Bounty grants for military service were issued by the Republic of Texas to soldiers who served in the Texas Revolution and to those who enlisted in the army before October 1, 1837. The amount of land granted depended on length of service. Each three months of service provided 320 acres, up to a maximum of 1,280 acres. Often the heirs of a soldier who died in battle would be granted the full 1,280 acres on the assumption that the fallen soldier would have served for the duration of the war.

The defeat and slaughter at the Alamo, and the massacre at Goliad just a few weeks later, provided inspiration for the remaining Texian army as it secured an improbable victory at San Jacinto over Santa Anna's army. The decisive victory won the war for the Texans, and the Republic of Texas was established.

In 1851, William B. Travis' heirs began applying for, and receiving, land for their father's service during the Texas Revolution. Charles E. Travis, William's son, is identified on several documents as the heir tending to Travis' estate, and receiving land on behalf of his fallen father.

William B. Travis' heirs were issued Certificate #906 for 1,920 acres by the Adjutant General of Texas on July 31, 1851 for his having served faithfully and honorably in the Army of the Republic of Texas and for having "Fallen in the Alamo."

This certificate granted his heirs 1,280 acres of land for the year in which he was enlisted (terminated by death), and an additional 640 acres for having fallen at the Alamo, totaling 1,920 acres. The land was patented by the heirs of William B. Travis on June 7, 1854, and located in Brown County on the waters of Pecan Bayou and Green Briar Creek.<sup>1</sup>

*List of the names of those who fell on the Alamo at San Antonio de Bexar, 6th March 1836.*

Names	Rank	Where from
W. Barret Travis	1st Colonel Commandant	
James Bowie	"	
J. Washington		Texas
Sevier	Captain	San Jacinto
William Bledsoe	do	San Jacinto
Mr. C. M. Butler	do	San Jacinto
Cross	do	San Jacinto
Henry	do	San Jacinto
S. C. Mason	do	San Jacinto
William	do	San Jacinto
Robert White	do	San Jacinto
John Jones	do	San Jacinto
J. C. Smith	do	San Jacinto
Robert Evans	do	San Jacinto
William	do	San Jacinto
Charles Knapton	do	San Jacinto
Oliver	do	San Jacinto
Richard	do	San Jacinto
Samuel	do	San Jacinto
St. C. B. Robinson	do	San Jacinto
Amos	do	San Jacinto
Samuel	do	San Jacinto
James B. Johnson	do	San Jacinto
David Crockett	do	San Jacinto
Robert	do	San Jacinto
John	do	San Jacinto
W. H. Smith	do	San Jacinto
Samuel	do	San Jacinto
C. B. Smith	do	San Jacinto
James	do	San Jacinto
William	do	San Jacinto
Christopher	do	San Jacinto
Robert	do	San Jacinto
John	do	San Jacinto
W. H. Smith	do	San Jacinto
Samuel	do	San Jacinto
James	do	San Jacinto
W. H. Smith	do	San Jacinto
Samuel	do	San Jacinto

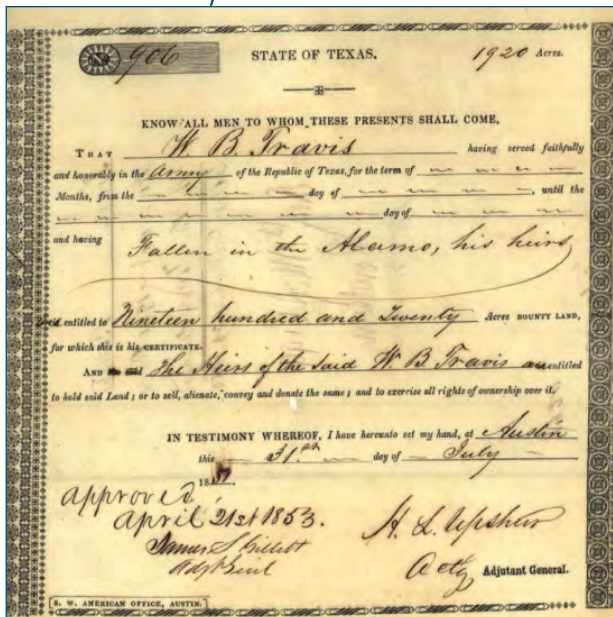
W. Barret Travis is the first name listed on the Muster Roll of those who fell at the Alamo.

Continued on Page 8

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*The bounty certificate granted to the heirs of William Barret Travis for having Fallen in the Alamo.*

Travis' heirs also received a 1st Class Certificate for land on August 21, 1851, as an augmentation of one labor of land (177.1 acres) for Travis' previously received league of land (4,428.4 acres) in Mexican Texas.<sup>2</sup> This land augmentation was issued for those who fought and died at the Alamo, under the provisions of an act of the Legislature approved February 9, 1850, the same act that prepared the Muster Roll.

Charles E. Travis is identified as receiving the patent to this land on August 12, 1856, finalizing his ownership of the tract. The land was located in present-day Haskell County on the waters of Paint Creek, which is a tributary of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River.

Among other documents at the Land Office featuring Travis is *A List of the Names of Those who Fell in the Alamo, at San Antonio de Bexar, 6th March 1836*.<sup>3</sup> W. Barrett Travis, Lt. Colonel Commandant, is the first name listed on this Muster Roll given to the Texas General Land Office in 1850

by the Texas Adjutant General's Office from a list compiled in 1839. Later, the original list burned in the fire at the Adjutant General's Office in 1855.<sup>4</sup>

Land Office staff members used the Muster Roll to complete the issuance of headright certificates for a league and labor of land to all those who died during the Texas Revolution. Other names that appear on this page along with Travis are James Bowie, Lt. Colonel, and David Crockett, Private, from Tennessee.

The place of nativity ("Wherefrom") listed for each of the soldiers bears truth to the fact that Travis was indeed writing to the "People of Texas, & All Americans in the world." On this page alone there are 33 men from eight different states and three different countries.

William Barret Travis is remembered through his writings, mostly because of his stirring "Victory or Death" letter written from the Alamo on February 24, 1836. Travis is also remembered at the Land Office as one of the most important figures in Texas history, and he provides many rich examples of how land was awarded to soldiers who fought for Texas independence.

For more information about William Barret Travis, please contact [archives@glo.texas.gov](mailto:archives@glo.texas.gov), or visit [glo.texas.gov](http://glo.texas.gov). ✨

## Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> William Barret Travis Bounty Certificate #906, July 31, 1851, Travis Bounty #224, Original Land Grant Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>2</sup> William Barret Travis 1st Class Certificate #92, August 21, 1851, Fannin 1st Class #704, Original Land Grant Collection, Archives and Records, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>3</sup> 1850 transcript copy of Adjutant General's 1839 Muster Roll, p. 39, Special Collection, Archives and Records Program, Texas General Land Office, Austin.
- <sup>4</sup> This Muster Roll was provided under the requirements of an act passed by the Texas Legislature on February 9, 1850, entitled "An act for the relief of the heirs of those who fell with Fannin, Ward, Travis, Grant and Johnson during the War with Mexico in the years 1835 and 1836."



# Teaching the Alamo

by Buck Cole, Outreach Advisor

**T**he Texas General Land Office and Alamo staffs are collaborating on new educational opportunities for Texas history educators that focus on William Barret Travis and the Alamo. Education staff members at the Alamo provide knowledge and expertise in understanding the people, events and little-known details surrounding the “Alamo story.” They provided invaluable help in developing interesting, TEKS-related lessons about William B. Travis and the times in which he lived. As with any person of Travis’ stature, his life is a mixture of fact, myth and innuendo.

The center piece of the curriculum, of course, is the February 24, 1836 letter written by Travis at the beginning of the siege of the Alamo. It is one of the most cherished examples of American patriotism and arguably the most famous document in Texas history. It’s the springboard from which we introduce students to a variety of related topics. The following new lessons were created with this in mind:



*A well-choreographed group at an educational workshop in Arlington ISD. These teachers look ready to learn.*

1. ***I call on you in the name of Liberty***—Students are asked to analyze the document by applying a simple strategy (DESCRIBE) to help them answer basic questions and make valid assumptions about the document and its purpose.
2. ***By Express day or night***—After analyzing the letter, students are asked to explain the challenges that geography, communication and transportation presented in spreading Travis’ message throughout Texas.
3. ***“My Dear Mr. Travis”***—Students will write a personal letter to Travis detailing the events of the Texas Revolution after the fall of the Alamo and the possible impact his words had on the people of Texas and beyond.
4. ***“... and all Americans in the World”***—Students are asked to analyze reasons why Travis used this phrase in his appeal for help. What may have motivated him to use these words? How might these words connect to the larger themes of citizenship and the nature of government?

These lessons, when infused with teacher expertise and passion, and perhaps a visit to the Alamo, will help students see that letters can be more than just words on a page. They can tell us more about the periods in which they were written, teach respect for the challenges of the times, and in the case of Travis’ famous letter, perhaps motivate and inspire.

For more information about educational resources for teachers and students, go to <http://www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/history-and-archives/education-outreach/index.html>. ✱

## Tell Us About Your Experience at the Land Office Archives

**H**ave you had a good experience with the Texas General Land Office Archives? Maybe you attended a tour or presentation that took your breath away. Or maybe you learned something that you never knew about Texas history. Perhaps you discovered a document that shed some new light on one of your ancestors.

Please Friend Save Texas History on Facebook, and share your experience with us. If you are not on Facebook, please email [archives@glo.texas.gov](mailto:archives@glo.texas.gov) with details about your experience at the Land Office Archives.

The best story about someone’s experience with the Archives will appear in the next edition of Saving Texas History and will win its writer a free map! ✱

# San Patricio Land District Now Available Online

by James Harkins, Director of Public Services

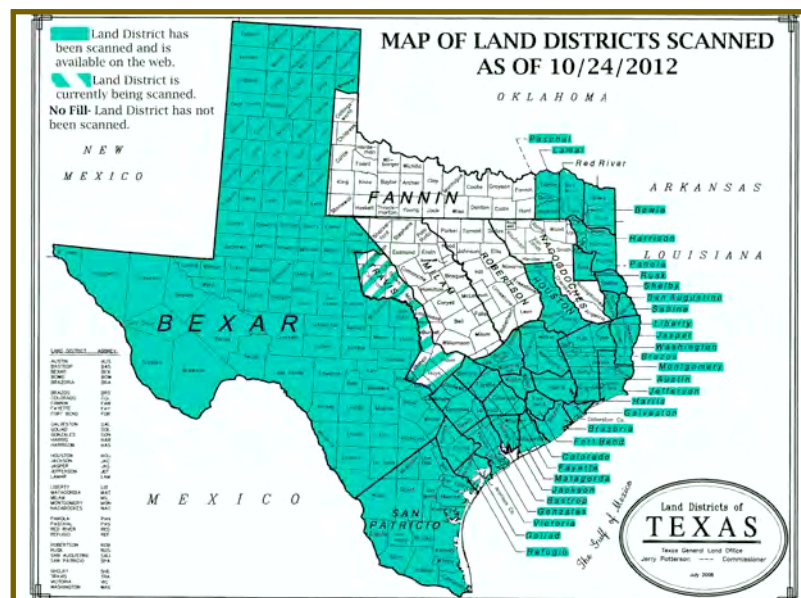
Scanning continues at a fast pace at the General Land Office Archives and Records. The Scan Lab team recently passed another milestone, finishing the scanning of the San Patricio Land District, which constitutes 17 different counties in South Texas and 6,104 land grant files.

“South Texas has historically been home to some of the most passionate customers of the General Land Office Archives,” said José Barragán, Spanish Translator for the Texas General Land Office. “This is due to their ties to the lands their ancestors received from Spain or Mexico prior to the Texas Revolution. Having these files available online will be a huge benefit to our customers in South Texas.”

Almost 300 of the 1st Class Headrights found in the San Patricio Land District are mentioned in the Bourland and Miller Report of 1852. Many of these documents have a tangled chain of title, which can often be confusing to South Texas researchers, as well as Land Office employees. In 2009, however,

## COUNTIES IN THE SAN PATRICIO LAND DISTRICT

BEE	LIVE OAK
BROOKS	McMULLEN
CAMERON	NUECES
DUVAL	SAN PATRICIO
HIDALGO	STARR
JIM HOGG	WEBB
JIM WELLS	WILLACY
KENEDY	ZAPATA
KLEBERG	



This map shows the Land Districts that have been scanned. Currently, scanning work is taking place in the Travis Land District (the striped area in the center of the map).

the General Land Office released the award winning book, *Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in South Texas*. This book explains many of the Spanish and Mexican land titles in South Texas. Thanks to the hard work of the Land Office Scan Lab, these documents are now available online, for the first time, through the Land Grant Database.

The San Patricio Land District has 6,104 land grant files, all of which are now online and available through the Land Grant Database.

The Scan Lab has scanned 33 of the 38 original land districts. It is currently working on the Travis Land District, with 6,702 land grant files. ✱

## A Word from the Public

When Junior High students express excitement I know it's been a good 'gig'!! And they were excited [about touring the GLO Archives]. One of them kept saying over and over how awesome it was and he even told that to his mom when we returned to Caldwell!! I appreciate you and the others who took time from your day to help educate my group of young Texans!! They are our future!!

—Pamela Jones, First Baptist Academy



## Do you “like” Texas history?

**L**ove Texas history? Then “like” the new Save Texas History Facebook page! Get the latest news about the Texas General Land Office conservation and education program, including upcoming events, contests, media and Texas history trivia.

Watch for opportunities to win maps and other Save Texas History collectibles. Give STH a thumbs up to be entered in STH drawings. Keep up with your Save Texas History friends today! ✨



## To Request a Speaker

to discuss Land Office genealogical resources with your group or society, please call 512.463.5277, or email [archives@glo.texas.gov](mailto:archives@glo.texas.gov).

## To Schedule Tours

please call 512.463.5277, or visit us online at [savetexashistory.org](http://savetexashistory.org).

*While anyone who walks in is welcome to tour the Archives, it's best to schedule in advance. With prior notice, tours can be tailored to specific interests. Due to the size of the rooms, groups of 20 or less offer the best tour experience.*

## THE ALAMO BECOMES A STAR

JUNE 1914 AND THE SHRINE TO TEXAS LIBERTY  
HITS THE SILVER SCREEN.



This week in Texas History, brought to you by this station and the Save Texas History program of the General Land Office.

June 1, 1914. San Antonio. A new silent film premieres at the Royal Theatre a few blocks from the Alamo.

“The Siege and Fall of the Alamo” is the first feature film about the legendary battle of 1836. It is also the first and only such film shot at the Alamo.

At a cost of \$35,000 and with two thousand extras, the film is a hit. But today, only a few still photos remain. No print of the film has ever been found.

The Alamo became a star 98 years ago,  
This Week in Texas History.

HEAR THIS AT [THISWEEKINTEXASHISTORY.ORG](http://THISWEEKINTEXASHISTORY.ORG)